

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. ON FEBRUARY 24 THE TWO PSI COUNCILORS ON THE PUGLIA REGIONAL CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA RESIGNED AND CAUSED IT TO FALL TEMPORARILY. THE PSI ATTRIBUTES THE RESIGNATIONS TO ALLEGED "FAILURE BY THE GIUNTA TO TAKE THE SHARP TURN WHICH THE SOCIALISTS AND THE MASSES EXPECTED FROM THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS". THE PSI REGIONAL DIRECTORATE IS PREPARING A POLICY DOCUMENT ON ITS ACTION AND POSITION ON THE MATTER. THE PUGLIA REGIONAL GIUNTA WAS THE ONLY ONE IN MY DISTRICT WHERE THE GOVERNING COALITION (DC-PSI-PSDI-PRI) WAS NOT OPEN TO THE PCI. I SURMISE THAT THE DOCUMENT BEING PREPARED BY THE PSI WILL INSIST ON THE PCI ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE PROGRAMS CONSIDERED BY

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THE GIUNTA. MY OWN GUESS IS THAT THE PCI WILL BE AGREEABLE TO THIS AND A CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA WILL AGAIN EMERGE.

2. DURING INTERVIEW LAST WEEK WITH MILT FREMDENHEIM, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS SERVICE, NAPLES PSI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY GUIDO DE MARTINO STATED THAT PSI IS PUSHING FOR MAJORITY GIUNTA WITH LARGEST POSSIBLE CO-ALITION TO ADMINISTER CITY OF NAPLES. ALTHOUGH HE FELT CURRENT LEFTIST GIUNTA HAD MADE SMALL COSMETIC CHANGES ONLY, SOCIALISTS RESENT BEING IGNORED BY COMMUNISTS AND PLAN TO PRESS FOR ELECTION OF SOCIALIST TO REPLACE COMMUNIST MAYOR VALENZI. ASKED BY FREMDENHEIM WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE PCI IS REALLY PROGRESSING ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINE AND WHETHER HE FELT ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WERE GOING TO SEVER TIES

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WITH MOSCOW, DE MARTINO RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO FIRST QUESTION BUT

EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PCI FREEING ITSELF FROM MOSCOW.
3. THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IN NAPLES WILL MOST LIKELY BE FORCED TO
SUSPEND ITS FUNCTIONS TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF MINOR TECHNICAL INFRAC-
TIONS IN REPORTING ELECTION RESULTS BY FOUR SMALL POLLING STATIONS.
IT APPEARS THAT ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE REPEATED AT THESE FOUR
PLACES BUT THIS SHOULD NOT CHANGE THE PRESENT RELATIVE STRENGTH OF
PARTIES. AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, AS WILL PROBABLY BE THE CASE FOR
THE CITY, A GIUNTA WITH WIDER REPRESENTATION AND SUPPORT WILL LIKELY

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BE INSTALLED BEFORE OR AFTER THE BUDGET IS APPROVED.

4. A FINAL NOTE OF INTEREST: THE REGIONAL GIUNTA APPROVED THE
BUDGET YESTERDAY WITH ALL 16 PCI COUNCILORS VOTING IN FAVOR. NO PCI
COUNCILORS ARE OF COURSE ON THE GIUNTA WHICH SHOULD REMAIN CENTER-
LEFT FOR SOME TIME TO COME. COLANTONIO

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